United Nations S/2013/620

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 October 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 18 October 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 11 October 2013 from Her Excellency Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, forwarding a communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 399th meeting, held on 10 October 2013 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN Ki-moon**

13-52338 (E) 221013

Please recycle

Annex

Letter dated 11 October 2013 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to the Secretary-General

I am forwarding, herewith, the communiqué adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 399th meeting, held on 10 October 2013 to consider my report on the recommendations of the joint AU-United Nations benchmarking exercise and review of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

As you are aware, the review and the benchmarking exercise, which took place from 26 August to 6 September 2013, were undertaken in pursuance of Security Council resolution 2093 (2013) and relevant African Union Peace and Security Council communiqués. I would like to seize this opportunity to convey my appreciation to you, in particular, and to the United Nations Secretariat, in general, for the spirit of cooperation and collaboration which characterized the review process throughout its conduct. This spirit is yet another illustration of the close partnership that binds the African Union and the United Nations.

Overall, the review came to the conclusion that conditions are not yet conducive for the re-hatting of AMISOM into a United Nations operation and that further efforts need to be made to degrade the capacity of the terrorist group Al Shabaab and improve significantly the security situation, in order to facilitate the successful completion of the political process. Against this background, the Peace and Security Council endorsed the recommendations of the review regarding the need to increase AMISOM strength and provide it with the required force multipliers and enablers, as well as the need to provide non-lethal support to the Somali National Security Forces, to enable them both to hold onto the areas currently cleared of Al Shabaab presence and to expand into and recover new areas.

The Peace and Security Council is looking forward to the United Nations Security Council's positive consideration of the report of the review and benchmarking exercise. In this respect, it is critical that the Security Council authorize the revision and expansion of the United Nations support package to AMISOM to ensure that the necessary support is extended to AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces, through the assessed contributions.

I would be most grateful if you could circulate the present letter and the Peace and Security Council communiqué as a document of the Security Council.

Allow me to seize this opportunity to reiterate the African Union's deep appreciation to the United Nations Security Council and to you personally for your continued support to AMISOM efforts. The tremendous strides made over the past few years would not have been possible without the support of the United Nations and other partners and the innovative partnership our two institutions have built.

I have no doubt that, as we enter a new phase in our joint efforts in Somalia, we can count on United Nations support.

(*Signed*) Nkosazana **Dlamini-Zuma**

Communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 399th meeting, held on 10 October 2013

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 399th meeting, held on 10 October 2013, adopted the following decision on the Joint AU-United Nations Review of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the benchmarking exercise:

Council,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Joint AU-United Nations Review of AMISOM and the benchmarking exercise [PSC/PR/2(CCCXCIX)] and of the briefing by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Somalia and Head of AMISOM, as well as of the statements made by the representatives of the Government of Somalia, permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and AU Member States sitting in that organ (France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States and Rwanda), the United Nations Secretariat, the European Union and Italy, as co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Partners Forum;

2. *Welcomes, once again*, the significant progress made in Somalia, both on the political and security fronts. Council, at the same time, *expresses deep concern* at the serious threat that Al Shabaab continues to pose in Somalia and in the region. In this respect, Council *condemns in the strongest terms* the terrorist and cowardly attacks perpetrated by Al Shabaab, notably in Mogadishu against the United Nations common compound and a restaurant, and in Nairobi against a shopping mall. Council *expresses its solidarity* with the Governments and peoples of Somalia and Kenya, and *reiterates* AU's commitment to continue working with Member States and partners in the prevention and combating of terrorism;

3. *Recalls* resolution 2093 (2013) adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 6 March 2013, requesting, notably, the United Nations Secretary-General to keep the situation in Somalia under review, including through the setting of benchmarks for the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, as well as the Security Council's presidential statement of 6 June 2013 (S/PRST/2013/7), welcoming the intention of the United Nations Secretariat to conduct a joint review of AMISOM with AU, and emphasizing the importance of both organizations working closely together in this exercise;

4. *Further recalls* its communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(CCCLVI), adopted at its 356th meeting, held on 27 February 2013, endorsing the recommendation made to enhance AMISOM, revising the mandate of AMISOM to take into account the evolution of the situation on the ground and the need to consolidate the gains made, and calling upon the United Nations Security Council to authorize the enhancement of the support package to AMISOM. Council *further recalls* its communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(CCCLXXIX), adopted at its 379th meeting, held on 13 June 2013, in which it stated that it was looking forward to the outcome of the benchmarking exercise;

5. *Also recalls* the communiqué adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Troop Contributing Countries to AMISOM, Ethiopia and Somalia, held in Kampala, Uganda, on 4 August 2013, which notably requested the Commission, in consultation with the concerned stakeholders, to revise the Strategic

Concept for the future operations of AMISOM, as endorsed by its 306th meeting, held on 5 January 2012 [PSC/PR/COMM.(CCCVI)], in order to align it with the prevailing circumstances in the Mission area;

6. *Welcomes* the close collaboration between AU, the United Nations and the Troop Contributing Countries during the Joint AU-United Nations Review and benchmarking exercise. Council *notes* the findings of the Review, in particular with respect to the threat posed by Al Shabaab, the current AMISOM operations and the state of the Somali National Security Forces (SNSF). Council *further notes* the conclusion reached by the Joint Review that the conditions for re-hatting AMISOM into a United Nations peacekeeping operation do not exist at present and that the deployment of such an operation at this time would be a high-risk option;

7. *Stresses the need* for renewed efforts to degrade the capabilities of Al Shabaab, in view of the continued threat it poses both within Somalia and in the region, and the need to improve significantly the security situation to create conditions for the successful conclusion of the political process, notably with respect to the constitutional referendum and the elections planned for 2016;

8. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Troop and Police Contributing Countries for their commitment and sacrifices towards the promotion of peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia;

9. *Expresses its gratitude* to the United Nations, the European Union and the international community as a whole for their support to date to AMISOM. Council, while acknowledging the challenges encountered in mobilizing adequate support for AMISOM, *stresses once again* the importance of AMISOM continuing its vital work;

10. *Endorses* the recommendations made by the Joint Review in order to enable the resumption of the military campaign against Al Shabaab, through:

- an increase of AMISOM strength by 6,235 troops and police personnel, out of which 3 battalions will be deployed for a limited period of 18 to 24 months as a force asset under the control of the AMISOM Force Commander, bringing the AMISOM total strength to 23,966 uniformed personnel
- the provision of the required force multipliers and enablers to AMISOM, and
- the provision of non-lethal support to SNSF, to enable them both to hold the areas currently cleared of Al Shabaab presence, as well as to expand into and recover new areas;

11. *Stresses the need* for the Commission to adjust the concept of operations for AMISOM in order to take into account the recommendations of the Joint Review and determine its implementation modalities. In this respect, Council *looks forward* to the contribution that could be made by the Military Operations Coordination Committee, and *encourages* it to meet in due course;

12. *Looks forward* to the United Nations Security Council's positive consideration of the report of the Joint Review and the benchmarking exercise, including endorsement of the proposed force increase and the provision of logistical support to AMISOM and SNSF. Council *calls* on the Security Council to authorize the revision and adjustment of the United Nations logistical support package, as renewed under paragraph 4 of resolution 2093 (2013), to make it possible to extend

the support referred to in paragraph 10 above through United Nations assessed contributions;

13. *Further calls* on the European Union, through the Africa Peace Facility, to continue to provide the required support to facilitate the envisaged increase in AMISOM strength. Council *also calls* on other AU partners to provide the necessary financial support to assist in meeting the needs of the Mission, particularly in view of the projected increase in its strength and, in this regard, *welcomes* the sensitization visits that the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Somalia intends to undertake to some of Africa's partners to seek their support. Council, recalling the Declaration on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, adopted by the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 May 2013, which encouraged Member States to make exceptional voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Organization of African Unity, *urges* all Member States to contribute financially to the sustenance of AMISOM. Council *also appeals* to the AU Member States to contribute troops and police personnel to enhance the operational capacity of AMISOM;

14. *Stresses the need* for continued efforts by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the other Somali stakeholders to further the reconciliation process, and *encourages* them to intensify these efforts, building on the inclusive Constitutional Review Process launched by FGS on 16 June 2013, the establishment on 3 July 2013 of the Constitutional Review Commission and the Agreement reached on 28 August 2013 by FGS and the Jubba Interim Administration under the mediation of the IGAD Chair, Ethiopia;

15. *Welcomes* the successful holding of the Brussels High-Level Conference, co-hosted by the European Union and the Federal Government of Somalia, on 16 September 2013, and the endorsement on that occasion of the New Deal Compact for Somalia;

16. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Commission to take all necessary steps to effectively follow up on the relevant provisions of this communiqué, including transmitting it to the United Nations Secretary-General and, through him, to the Security Council, as well as to the other AU partners;

17. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.